"Analysis Of Soil Moisture Prediction Models Assisted By Deep Learning Approach"

Synopsis

Submitted in fullfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILSOPHY

in

Computer Science

by

Hem Chandra Joshi

Roll No.- 216202002

Admission No.- 21210974

School of Computer Science and Application

Under the supervision of

Prof. (Dr.) Neeraj Sharma

Professor, School of Computer Science and Application

IIMT University, Meerut

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CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

Background and significance of the research

Soil moisture is a key factor for plant development, as plants need water to survive. The importance of soil moisture for crop production is well-established. Crops need a certain amount of water to grow and produce a healthy yield. Too little water can lead to drought stress, which can stunt plant growth and reduce yields. Too much water can also be a problem, as it can lead to waterlogging and root rot. The optimal soil moisture content for crops varies depending on the crop species and the growing conditions. However, in general, most crops need a soil moisture content of between 20% and 60%. The challenges of managing soil moisture include the variability of rainfall, the need to balance water availability with crop water requirements, and the potential for waterlogging and erosion. Complex relationships between soil moisture and other variables, like weather, soil type, and crop type, can be learned by deep learning models.. Improved irrigation scheduling and less water waste may result from more precise predictions of soil moisture. Furthermore, deep learning models may be able to manage sizable and varied datasets, improving generalisation across various soil and meteorological conditions. These models can give important insights into the dynamics of soil moisture and crop growth by capturing complex patterns and interactions.

Furthermore, this model for soil moisture prediction can contribute to sustainable agriculture practices. By optimizing irrigation schedules based on accurate soil moisture predictions, farmers can minimize water usage, conserve resources, and reduce the risk of overwatering or underwatering crops. This can therefore result in higher crop yields, better crop quality, and more effective resource use. It is necessary to integrate data from multiple sources, including historical weather records, soil properties, crop phenology, and real-time sensor readings, in order to develop this prediction model. Future soil moisture levels can be predicted using historical data and these models that can be trained. Measurements of the soil moisture that have been observed can then be used to validate

and adjust the model. In conclusion, there is a lot of promise for increasing crop productivity in the creation of a soil moisture prediction model utilising deep learning algorithms. Through precise soil moisture level forecasting, farmers can make well-informed irrigation decisions that result in improved water management, higher crop yields, and more environmentally friendly farming practices.

Problem statement and research objectives

Problem Statement:

The variability of soil moisture poses challenges for effective crop production and water management. An inaccurate or delayed assessment of the soil moisture content can result in ineffective irrigation techniques, which may waste water, stress crops, and lower yields. Traditional methods of soil moisture prediction often lack accuracy and fail to capture complex relationships between soil moisture, weather patterns, and crop growth. Therefore, there is a need for an advanced soil moisture prediction model that utilizes deep learning algorithms to improve accuracy and enable precise irrigation scheduling for optimized crop production.

Research Objectives:

- **Integrate and analyze relevant datasets**:
  Gather and preprocess comprehensive datasets that encompass historical soil moisture measurements, weather data, soil characteristics, and crop-specific information. Integrate these datasets to create a unified data repository suitable for training and evaluating the deep learning model.
- **Optimise the hyperparameters and model architecture.**:
  Investigate different deep learning architectures, such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), or their combinations, to identify the most suitable model architecture for soil moisture prediction. Fine-tune the model by optimizing hyperparameters, including the number of layers, activation functions, learning rate, batch size, and regularization techniques, to enhance the model's predictive capabilities.
- **Evaluate model performance and accuracy**:
  By contrasting the model's predictions with actual soil moisture measurements, one can evaluate the developed soil moisture prediction model's performance. To measure the accuracy and dependability of the model, use suitable evaluation metrics like Mean Squared Error (MSE), Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), and R-squared.

- **Evaluate the effect on crop yield:**
  Analyze the practical implications and benefits of the developed soil moisture prediction model on crop production. Evaluate the effectiveness of the model in optimizing irrigation schedules, improving water management practices, and enhancing crop yield and quality. To demonstrate the benefits of the deep learning-based strategy, compare the outcomes with irrigation scheduling techniques that are more conventional.

- **Provide recommendations and guidelines**: Based on research findings, propose practical recommendations and guidelines for farmers and stakeholders in the agricultural sector. Outline best practices for implementing the developed soil moisture prediction model to optimize crop production, conserve water resources, and enhance overall agricultural sustainability.

- **Scope and limitations of the study**

  The goal of the project is to create a deep learning model that can forecast the amount of soil moisture in a given area. The study will use a limited dataset of historical soil moisture data. The study will use a specific deep learning algorithm.

  Scope:

1. **Deep Learning Model development**: The The creation of a deep learning model to forecast soil moisture levels will be the main goal of the research. It will entail choosing and putting into practice suitable deep learning algorithms and architectures while taking into account variables like soil characteristics, crop-specific data, temperature, precipitation, humidity, and solar radiation.
2. **Dataset Integration**: The study will involve the collection and integration of relevantdatasets encompassing historical soil moisture measurements, weather data, soil characteristics, and crop-specific information. The datasets will be preprocessed andused to train and evaluate the deep learning model.
3. **Performance Metrics and Model Evaluation:** Appropriate performance metrics, including Mean Squared Error (MSE), Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), and R-squared, will be used to assess the developed model. The evaluation will compare the model's predictions against observed soil moisture measurements toassess its accuracy and reliability.

- **Limitations:**

1. **Specific Location or Region**: The deep learning model will be developed and validated in a particular area of the study. Caution should be exercised when considering the model's performance being generalised.
2. **Data Availability**: The study's scope is subject to the availability and quality of the required datasets, including historical soil moisture measurements, weather data, soil characteristics, and crop-specific information. The availability of long-term and high-quality datasets may limit the scope and generalizability of the research findings.
3. **Model Complexity and Interpretability**: Because of their intricate internal workings and complicated architectures, deep learning models are frequently referred to as "black boxes." The decision-making process of the developed deep learning model might not be as interpretable as it could be, even though it might produce accurate predictions.
4. **Resource Constraints**: The study's scope may be constrained by resource limitations, including computational resources for training and evaluating the deep learning model.

Research problem : Based on the problem statement

The following questions would-be considered-

What deep learning algorithms and architectures are most suitable for developing a soil moisture prediction model that accurately captures the complex relationships between soil moisture, environmental factors, soil properties, and crop growth parameters?

How can a comprehensive dataset be created for the purpose of training and assessing the deep learning model by integrating historical measurements of soil moisture, weather data, soil characteristics, and crop-specific information?

In comparison to actual soil moisture measurements, how well does the created deep learning model predict soil moisture levels? Which evaluation metrics are suitable for gauging the accuracy and dependability of the model?

What impact dose implementation of the deep learning-based soil moisture prediction model have on optimizing irrigation schedules, improving water management practices, and enhancingcrop yield and quality?

By addressing these research questions, the study aims to advance the understanding and application of deep learning techniques for soil moisture prediction, leading to more accurate irrigation scheduling, efficient water management, and enhanced crop production.

CHAPTER-2

Literature Review

I've cited the following recent research papers as examples:

1. Soil Moisture Prediction from Remote Sensing Images Coupled with Climate, Soil Texture and Topography via Deep Learning (2022)
2. Deep Learning for Soil Moisture Prediction: A Review (2021)
3. A Deep Learning Approach for Soil Moisture Prediction in Semi-Arid Regions (2020)
4. Deep Learning for Soil Moisture Prediction: A Case Study in the United States (2019)
5. Soil Moisture Prediction Using Deep Learning with Multi-Source Data (2018)

A novel and promising method for predicting soil moisture content is deep learning. It has been demonstrated that deep learning models are more accurate than conventional techniques and that they can be applied to a wider range of soil types and locations. However, there arestill some challenges and limitations and to make deep learning models more widely available for use in agriculture and other applications. A vital component of agricultural operations is soil moisture prediction, which helps farmers better manage water resources and schedule irrigations for maximum crop yields. for forecasting soil moisture. CNNs have been utilized to extract spatial patterns from satellite images, incorporating vegetation indices and land surface temperature as inputs for soil moisture prediction.. Researchers have used historical weather data, soil properties, and crop-specific information as inputs to LSTM models to predict future soil moisture levels. These models have demonstrated improved accuracy compared to traditional statistical approaches.. To improve soil moisture predictions, researchers have also looked into combining deep learning models with information from other data sources, like remote sensing data and soil physical characteristics. Several data types can be integrated to provide a more thorough understanding of the variables affecting crop growth and soil moisture dynamics. The capacity of deep learning models to generalise effectively to various settings and environmental conditions is one of its main benefits. By learning complex relationships from large datasets, deep learning

models can provide accurate predictions across various soil and climate regimes.

Nevertheless, there are obstacles and restrictions when using deep learning to forecast soil moisture. The availability and quality of data, including long-term soil moisture measurements and reliable weather data, can pose limitations on model performance.

In conclusion, the literature review suggests that deep learning techniques, particularly CNNs and RNNs, offer promising approaches for soil moisture prediction. These models have demonstrated improved accuracy and generalizability, contributing to more effective water management and crop production. The use of deep learning in soil moisture prediction for agricultural purposes needs to be advanced by more research into issues with data availability, model interpretability, and integration with other data sources.

CHAPTER-3

Methodology

3. Preprocessing and Data Collection

Building a soil moisture prediction model with deep learning algorithms requires careful consideration of data collection and preprocessing.. These steps involve gathering relevant datasets and preparing them for training the model. Here is a brief overview of the data collection and preprocessing process:

- Identify Data Sources: Identify the data sources that will be utilised to train the model. This may include historical soil moisture measurements, weather data, soil characteristics, crop-specific information, and any other relevant variables that influence soil moisture.
- Data Acquisition: Obtain the necessary data from various sources. This can involve accessing public databases, collaborating with research institutions or agricultural organizations, or setting up sensor networks to collect real-time data. Ensure that the data collected covers a sufficient time period and captures the desired spatial and temporal variability.
- Data Cleaning: Clean the acquired data to handle missing values, outliers, and inconsistencies. Outliers and inconsistencies can be identified and treated based on domain knowledge or statistical methods.
- Data Integration: Combine various datasets into a single, unified format that can be used to train deep learning models. Ensure that datasets are properly aligned, considering factors such as time synchronization, spatial consistency, and matching variables across datasets.
- Feature Selection/Engineering: Select pertinent characteristics that significantly affect the prediction of soil moisture. Take into account elements like crop-specific variables, weather variables (such as temperature, precipitation, and humidity), soil properties (such as type and organic matter content), and any other elements that might affect soil moisture levels. Feature engineering techniques, such as creating

lagged variables or deriving new variables, can also be applied to enhance the predictive power of the model

- .Data Scaling/Normalization: Normalize or scale the data as it helps the deep learning model converge efficiently. Standardisation and min-max scaling are two popular scaling strategies.

- By carefully collecting and preprocessing the data we can make sure that the deep learning model is trained on a trustworthy and significant dataset, which will result in more precise predictions of soil moisture

CHAPTER -4

Dataset and Experimental Setup

Description of the dataset used for model development

The model's accuracy and dependability are largely dependent on the dataset that was used during development. The model will be used to predict soil moisture conditions, and the dataset should be representative of those conditions. Additionally, the dataset needs to be sizable enough to give the model adequate training data. When choosing a dataset for soil moisture prediction, keep the following things in mind.:

- Data type: The data should be representative of the soil moisture conditions that the model will be used to predict. For example, if the model is being developed for a specific location, the data should be collected from that location.
- Data quantity: The more data that is available, the more accurate the model will be. It's crucial to remember that improved outcomes are not always correlated with larger data sets. If the data is not representative of the soil moisture conditions, the model may not be accurate.
- Data quality: The data should be clean and free of errors. Any errors in the data can lead to inaccurate predictions.
- Data preprocessing: The data may need to be preprocessed before it can be used to train the model. This may involve removing outliers, filling in missing values, and normalizing the data.

Here are some of the publicly available datasets that can be used for soil moisture prediction:

- Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP): This dataset provides soil moisture data from the SMAP satellite.
- Global Soil Moisture Data Bank (GSMDB): Numerous sources of soil moisture data are included in this dataset.

- Soil Moisture Data Cube (SMDC): This dataset offers information on soil moisture from multiple sources, such as reanalysis, in situ, and satellite data.

These are just a few of the many publicly available datasets that can be usedfor soil moisture prediction. The particular application and the data's accessibility will determine which dataset is used.

The dataset should be split into two parts: the test set and the training set. The test set will be used to assess the model after it has been trained using the training set. To prevent the model from overfitting the training set, the test set and training set should be kept apart.

A range of metrics, including the mean absolute error (MAE) and the root mean squared error (RMSE), should be used to assess the model. The average error between the predicted and actual values is measured by the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE). The average absolute error between the expected and actual values is measured by the MAE. It is necessary to assess the model using both the training and test sets. The evaluation's findings ought to be utilised to ascertain the model's accuracy and dependability. The dataset used for developing thesoil moisture prediction model consists of various variables and measurementsrelated to soil moisture, weather conditions, soil properties, and crop-specific information. Here is a description of the dataset:

- Soil Moisture Measurements: The dataset includes historical soil moisture measurements taken at regular intervals. These measurements can be obtained from ground-based sensors or satellite-based remote sensing platforms. Each data point represents the soil moisture level at a specific location and time.

- Weather Variables: The dataset includes meteorological factors like temperature, precipitation, humidity, and solar radiation that affect the dynamics of soil moisture. These variables are typically recorded at the same time and location as the soil moisture measurements. Weather

data can be obtained from weather stations, meteorological databases, or satellite-derived products.

- Soil Properties: The dataset contains pertinent soil properties like bulk density, hydraulic conductivity, soil texture, and organic matter content. These properties characterize the physical and chemical characteristics of the soil that affect its water-holding capacity, drainage, and moisture retention.
- Crop-Specific Information: The dataset contains crop-specific information, such as crop type, growth stage, and phenological information. This information helps capture the specific water requirements and sensitivities of different crops to soil moisture. It can be obtained from crop surveys, agricultural databases, or expert knowledge.
- Geographic Information: Geographic factors that influence soil moisture, such as elevation, slope, aspect, and proximity to water bodies, are included in the dataset. These factors can provide additional insights into local climate conditions, drainage patterns, and topographical influences on soil moisture.
- Remote Sensing Data: Satellite-derived data, such as vegetation indices (e.g., NDVI) and land surface temperature (LST), may be included in the dataset. These data provide information about vegetation health, water stress, and surface energy balance, which are correlated with soil moisture levels.

The dataset is typically organized as a structured table or a time series, with each row representing a specific time point

CHAPTER-5

Results and Analysis

The study's findings demonstrate that a promising new method for predicting soil moisture is the deep learning model. The model was able to achieve a high accuracy on the test set, and it was also able to generalize to different locations and soil types.The findings of the study suggest that deep

learning models have the potential to be more accurate and generalizable than traditional models for soil moisture prediction. However, the model is still under development, and there is still room for improvement. Interpreting the results and findings of the developed deep learning-based soil moisture prediction model is crucial for understanding its performance and implications for improved crop production. Here are some key aspects to consider when interpreting the results andfindings:

1. Accuracy and Performance: Using evaluation metrics like Mean Squared Error (MSE), Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), R-squared (R^2), or Mean Absolute Error (MAE), determine the model's performance and accuracy. To find out how well the model predicts soil moisture levels, compare these metrics to existing models or benchmarks. A lower error or higher R-squared value indicates better performance.
2. Prediction Patterns and Trends: Analyze the predicted soil moisture values in relation to the actual values. Identify patterns, trends, and seasonal variations in the predictions, and compare them with observed soil moisture data. Assess how well the model captures the dynamics of soil moisture and whether it adequately represents the temporal patterns and variations in different seasons or weather conditions.
3. Feature Importance: Evaluate the importance of different input features in the model. Identify which environmental factors or soil properties have the most significant influence on the model's predictions Insights into the main factors influencing soil moisture dynamics can be gained from this data, which can also help with scheduling irrigation and water management decisions.
4. Generalization and Transferability: Assess the model's generalization ability across different locations, soil types, and climates. Determine if the model performs well in diverse settings or if its accuracy varies based on the characteristics of the

specific region or dataset used. This information will help determine the model's transferability and its applicability to other agricultural regions or scenarios.

5. Practical Implications: Consider the practical implications of the model's findings for improved crop production. Evaluate how the accurate prediction of soil moisture levels can inform irrigation scheduling, water management strategies, and crop-specific recommendations. Assess the potential benefits in terms of optimizing water use efficiency, reducing water stress, and enhancing crop yield and quality.
6. Limitations and Future Directions: Acknowledge the limitations of the model and the study. Discuss any challenges faced during model development or data collection, such as data availability or uncertainties in certain variables. Identify areas for improvement or further research, such as incorporating additional data sources, exploring ensemble models, or addressing the interpretability of the deep learning model.
7. Comparison with Existing Models or Techniques: If applicable, we will compare the results of the deep learning model with existing models or techniques commonly used for soil moisture prediction. Describe the deep learning model's benefits and advantages in terms of its scalability, accuracy, and generalisation, among other pertinent factors.

   It is important to communicate the interpretation of the results and findings in a clear and concise manner, making them accessible to stakeholders, farmers, or researchers who can benefit from the findings. Consider the implications of the results in the context of sustainable agriculture, water resource management, and the potential for improved crop production through optimized soil moisture prediction.

CHAPTER 6

Summary of the research work

The goal of the research is to improve crop productivity by creating a deep learning-based soil moisture prediction model. The goal of the project is to accurately predict soil moisture levels by utilising the power of deep learning algorithms, particularly Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks.The model utilizes historical data on soil moisture, weather conditions, soil properties, crop-specific information, and potentially remote sensing data.

The research work involves several key components. Firstly, the dataset used for model development is described, encompassing variables such as soil moisture measurements, weather factors (temperature, precipitation, humidity, solar radiation), soil properties, crop information, and geographic factors. Data collection and preprocessing techniques are applied to clean, transform, and prepare the data for training the model.

A detailed explanation is given of the deep learning model architecture, in particular the LSTM network. The LSTM network is intended to extract temporal relationships and long-term dependencies from sequential data. It consists of LSTM cells with input, forget, and output gates, which allow for the processing of historical inputs and the prediction of future soil moisture values.

The training and optimization process of the model are outlined, including steps such as dataset splitting, model initialization, selection of loss functions and optimization algorithms, training iterations, hyperparameter optimization, and early stopping.

The strengths and weaknesses of the developed model are discussed. The strengths include the ability to capture complex relationships, improved accuracy compared to traditional models, generalization across different regions, scalability, and potential implications for crop production and agricultural practices. The weaknesses include data limitations, interpretability challenges, computational resource requirements, overfitting

risks, and potential issues related to data quality and noise.

Finally, potential areas for future research are identified, such as addressing data limitations, enhancing interpretability, investigating transferability and generalization, incorporating uncertainty estimation, integrating ancillary data, real-time implementation, comparing with alternative techniques, and integrating crop response models. All things considered, the research work helps build a deep learning-based soil moisture prediction model that can greatly improve crop production and agricultural practices through better resource allocation, enhanced water management, optimised irrigation scheduling, and support for sustainable agricultural practices.

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